

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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17

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO USDOC WASHDC

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UNCLAS LOURENCO MARQUES 0224

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, BGEN

SUBJECT: SHORTAGE OF METHYL BROMIDE FOR MOZAMBIQUE

1. SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY IN MOZAMBIQUE HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN TO CONGEN THAT IT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO IMPORT METHYL BROMIDE -- INSECTICIDE USED ON CORN CROPS, COTTON SEED, AND BAILED TOBACCO LEAVES -- IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY TO MEET MOZAMBIQUE'S NEEDS FOR 1974/1975 AGRICULTURAL SEASON. IN PAST, SHELL CHEMICAL HAS REGULARLY IMPORTED 80 PERCENT OF MOZAMBIQUE'S NEEDS OF INSECTICIDE FROM DOW CHEMICAL. DUE TO WORLD SHORTAGE OF THIS COMMODITY, DOW CHEMICAL HAS INFORMED SHELL CHEMICAL THAT IT UNCERTAIN WHEN IT WILL BE ABLE TO SATISFY ORDERS. SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY HAS ONLY FOUR-MONTH STOCK ON HAND AND DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT IT CAN OBTAIN METHYL BROMIDE FROM OTHER SOURCES.

2. IN VIEW RELATIVELY SMALL QUANTITY INVOLVED AND IMPORTANCE OF THIS COMMODITY TO IMPORTANT SEGMENTS OF MOZAMBIQUE'S AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT INQUIRING WITH DOW CHEMICAL WHETHER AND WHEN SHELL CHEMICAL'S ORDERS CAN BE FILLED.

3. IN 1973, SHELL CHEMICAL SOLD TOTAL OF 26.5 TONS OF METHYL BROMIDE IN MOZAMBIQUE. IT CURRENTLY HAS 8.5 TONS IN STOCK, HAS RECEIVED CONFIRMATION THAT 5.5 TONS MORE BEING SHIPPED, BUT STILL NEEDS ADDITIONAL 10.5 TONS ORDERED IN FEBRUARY 1974.
VAN OSS

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Message Attributes

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